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**NILES PARK DISTRICT**  
Minutes of Virtual Board Meeting  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
6:00 pm

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Board Members present: Julie Genualdi, President  
Dennis O'Donovan, Vice President  
Jim Hynes, Commissioner  
Scott O'Brien, Commissioner

Attorney present: Dan Shapiro, Attorney

Staff Members present: Tom Elenz, Executive Director  
Scot Neukirch, Director of Finance  
Heather Petrie, Executive Admin. Coordinator  
Julie Jentel, Marketing  
Lindsay Kmetty, Pioneer Park

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1. **Call to order**  
The regular board meeting was called to order by President Genualdi at 6:02pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**  
President Genualdi led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call**  
Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll. Treasurer LoVerde was absent.
4. **Changes to the agenda**  
There were no changes made to the agenda.
5. **Consent Agenda Approval**
  - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 19, 2021
  - B. Voucher List as Presented, January 31, 2021 - summary by fund:

General Fund	\$115,016.48
Recreation	\$76,199.90
Ice Rink	\$40,917.01
Swimming Pool	\$13,322.08
Golf Course	\$17,229.74
IMRF	-
Debt Service Fund	-
General Liability	\$8,740.00

Paving & Lighting	\$767.22
Police Protection	\$108.00
Handicapped	-
Capital	\$5,670.00
Audit	\$2,500.00
Grand Total	\$280,470.43

A motion was made by Commissioner Hynes and seconded by Commissioner O'Brien to accept the minutes of the Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 19, 2021, and the Voucher lists as presented, January 31, 2021. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Commissioner Hynes	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes

The motion passed 4-0

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Finance Director Neukirch reviewed the Treasurer's Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hynes and seconded by President Genualdi to approve the Treasurer's Report. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Commissioner Hynes	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes

The Motion passed 4-0

## 7. Reports of Park Officials

President Genualdi is looking forward to the ideas that are underway and working with staff to come up with more ideas.

There was no attorney's report.

## 8. Board Reports

### Marty Stankowicz, IceLand

- Hockey classes and team practices were moved to the indoor rink after we moved to tier 2 and team scrimmages started when we moved to tier 1.

- We are scheduling hockey games for the remainder of the season which runs until March 14. Games will be played against the same organizations, Franklin Park and Oak Park, keeping scheduling static.
- We opened the rink to spectators this past weekend for hockey games only, with guidelines and restriction. Players are allowed entry 12 minutes before game time, and one parent per player is allowed entry at game time. We are keeping players separated from spectators and they do not cross paths while in the building. Locker rooms are closed and not being used. Players are spread out inside the rink and asked to come dressed ready to play except for skates.
- We are running 4 week sessions of learn to skate and hockey classes. The February session was limited to groups of 10 but has been expanded after we moved to phase 4.
- Registration for March sessions starts next week.
- The outdoor rink is being used for public skate sessions and open hockey.
- We currently have no rentals except for Maine Hockey. If Illinois stays in phase 4, rentals we be offered to the people on the wait list.

### **Lindsay Kmetty, Pioneer Park**

- **Pioneer Park:**
  - Pioneer is scheduled to open for the season Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Staff has been contacted to see what their plans are for this summer.
    - The majority of staff is looking to work A LOT of hours.
  - We will be in a hiring freeze until we know for sure the pool is opening.
    - Last year too many staff and not enough hours to go around.
- **Sponsors**
  - Currently updating and revamping our Niles Park District sponsorship packet
    - Contacted 23 other park districts to see what they offer, pricing, and what works/doesn't work for them
    - Many struggled through 2020 and are unsure of their events for 2021 to be able to offer anything
    - Many now offer digital advertising options on their websites and TV screens
- **Mascot Update:**
  - Julie and I have been working together on providing mascot options for the board to choose from. Options include a bear, a bee, and a superhero. Character storylines were added to emphasize what each character is all about.
  - We have also considered how the mascot would be incorporated into special events, birthdays, sporting events, etc. and in giveaway options to help promote the mascot.
- **Tournaments Scheduled for 2021:**

- We will be hosting a series of tournaments this summer. Dates have been posted on all the tournament websites, coaches have been notified, and teams have begun to register.
  - 4/30-5/2- 10U/12U Spring Fling- boys & girls
  - 6/21-6/27- Niles Crosstown League Playoffs & Championships
  - TBA- Crosstown All-Star games
  - July 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>- 8U/9U/10U Dog Days Classic- boys baseball
  - July 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>- 14U/16U/18U Summer Classic- girls travel teams
  - July 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>- 10U/12U House Classic- local house and all-star teams, boys & girls
  - July 30<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>- 10U/12U/14U/16U Last Hurrah- girls travel teams
- Ryan Weiler in Athletics will be taking the lead on tournaments for 2021 since I will be out on maternity leave for the majority.

### **Laura Newton, Tam Tennis**

- I feel we were very successful during the Tier 3 mitigation. Our courts stayed constantly booked with singles and face masks as a requirement.
- We are back to doubles and matches and we are currently finishing up our classes from the tier 3 postponing and we will start spring classes shortly after.

### **Peter Dubs, Tam Golf Course**

- Our golf guide has been printed and we are registering participants for programs. Some March sessions filled to capacity within a few days.
- Staffing for the season has nearly been completed with training set to take place in late February and early March.
- League and permanent tee time groups are reserving their times for the coming season. Early numbers are looking good as we welcome back some groups that decided not to participate last season due to Covid concerns. League and permanent tee time fees are due by April 16.
- Software & training manual updates, scorecard design and printing, and pro-shop inventory ordering are also being completed to make sure we're ready to go as soon as weather allows in March or April.

### **Jim Majewski, Park Services**

- Park dog signs and waste stations have all been ordered and will go up once weather breaks
- Getting quotes for new playground equipment at Kirk Lane Park
- Working on replacing drainpipes at Tam clubhouse in cart storage area that are leaking due to corrosion
- Howard leisure lobby furniture has been ordered

### **Robin Brey, Office Manager/Recreation Program Supervisor**

- Preschool Open House for the upcoming school year was held this past Wednesday by appointment only.
- Over 50 families visited our preschool classrooms and had the opportunity to meet and talk with the teachers about the program. We had a tremendous response and received positive feedback and compliments about our facilities.
- Registration is now open for the 2021-2022 school year.

### **Julie Jentel, Marketing**

- Winter sessions have begun, all programs are on the website, as well as some Spring classes. Sports Clinics, Virtual and In Person Dance, Skating & Hockey Classes, Indoor Fitness, Spring Outdoor Sports, Preschool Open House and registration.
- Emails are sent for all programs & events, as well as social media posts.

### **Bob Kreiling, Park Patrol**

- The New Mobile tracking system is now operational.
  - Training on the new Mobile Tracking System has been completed and is now in use.
- We had no new park incidences.

### **Chris Zalinski, Grounds**

- Received new Smith Co ball diamond machine
- Cleaned out and disposed of overgrowth south of shop building
- Contracted with Morton Salt to provide 175 tons of salt
- Purchased new snow and ice equipment
- Installed a large snowblower on the front of the John Deere tractor
- Used every truck available to deal with the multiple snow events this month
- Helped the Athletic Department by providing cones and barricades to provide safe access to Golf View and the LoVerde Center

### **Paul Nielsen, Athletics Department**

- Court and soccer field rental income for **just** the months of February and March is currently at \$75,000 and likely will be over \$80,000 by the end of this coming week.
  - Joe has developed a customer base of at least 12 larger rental customers. The importance of this is we do not become dependent on one or two customers that can chose to go elsewhere and leave unused gaps that we are scrambling to fill.
- Pickleball during the weekdays has been very well received. We are now opening pickleball rentals for evenings in the very few open evening slots after athletic programs end for the evening.
  - The customers really enjoy the ability to reserve their court time compared to showing up for open pickleball.

- We have 18 different sports clinics currently operating that include basketball, volleyball, soccer, and flag football. Each clinic has 15 children in them and last four weeks long for the 270 children enrolled in them. They are completely sold out. We will be repeating these same clinics for four weeks in March and then four more weeks in April and expect they will be filled to capacity too.
- The “Pod Leagues” demand was overwhelming. The pods are completely sold out. There are 325 children participating in soccer and playing Saturdays and Sundays from 830am-9pm. The basketball pods have 915 children participating and are playing Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at Golf View, Grennan, and LoVerde Center.
- We continue to monitor, adapt, and adhere to state guidelines in regard to Covid-19.
- Marketing for all spring and early summer programs is underway and the public will be seeing the offerings in the coming days.
- The department is doing quite a bit of hiring as we are emerging from Covid-19 and many part time employees have moved on to different things in their lives.

## **9. New Business**

### **A. Mascot Presentation**

Some park districts have begun to implement a mascot as part of their identity recognition. They attend special events and programs and to interact with children. Lindsay Kmetty and Julie Jentel were present to show the board the results of their research into developing a part mascot.

Staff worked off the park slogan “Fitness, Family and Fun” when developing this mascot idea, wanting to inspire fun. The mascot image could be utilized in print materials as a cartoon type image and added to programming and marketing materials. The mascot would be used at special events, for photo ops, and at the parade. On social media, the mascot could be used for a photo contest (where is the mascot today?).

The mascot should be family friendly for all ages. The mascot should also be able to be relatively comfortable in various types of weather and determine what the mascot may be doing (being very active versus posing with children for photos). Mascot safety needs to also be considered.

Staff suggested a bee, a bear and a superhero for the board to consider. The board also discussed the cost of a mascot costume and potentially customizing it.

The board was very pleased with the work that was put into the mascot research, but also encouraged staff to come up with a more Niles specific idea.

### **B. Discussion on Oasis pool**

If Oasis is going to open for the season, now is the time to start planning as far as hiring guards, attendants, and training, as well as putting guidelines in place in accordance with State guidelines. Staff recommends opening the pool this summer. The board has heard that many

other park districts are planning on opening their pools this summer. The board also expressed concern about the potential of opening the pool, only to shut it down for 2 weeks after an outbreak, and so on. The board asked for a comprehensive breakdown of what the day-to-day procedures will look like if the pool will open on time this year. Staff will compile preliminary guidelines based on the current situation to share with the board.

### **C. Update on programming**

Current guidelines have the park district in phase 4, which allows for the expansion of some programs. We are running clinics, sports pods, rentals, and lessons. Groups are limited to 50. Facemasks must still be worn, and social gathering restrictions are still in place. All facilities are booked evenings during the week and all-day Saturday and Sunday. Executive Director Elenz thanked staff for their hard work in getting programs up and running.

### **D. Discussion on pickleball court request at Kirk Lane Park**

A resident asked if one of the tennis courts at Kirk Lane could be converted to a pickle ball court. That request was granted and since then, the pickle ball court has become very popular. The same resident has come back to ask for more pickle ball courts at Kirk Lane. This would result in eliminating the remaining tennis court and potentially adding three more pickle ball courts.

#### **10. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

#### **11. Miscellaneous**

Executive Director Elenz wanted to thank the Park Services department for all of their hard work this month with snow removal.

#### **12. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **13. Executive Session**

The Board will not convene into executive session.

#### **14. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hynes and seconded by Vice President O'Donovan to adjourn the regular meeting. Recording Secretary Petrie called the roll:

President Genualdi	Yes
Vice President O'Donovan	Yes
Commissioner Hynes	Yes
Commissioner O'Brien	Yes

The motion passed 4-0

**APPROVED:**

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**President Genualdi**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Date: February 16, 2021**

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**Board Secretary**